

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A valve assembly comprising a valve stem ~~(14)~~ defining a bore ~~(15)~~ and at least one radial port ~~(17)~~, and having an outlet end ~~(16)~~, and a sleeve ~~(18)~~ closed at one end slidable over the valve stem ~~(14)~~ to obstruct the or each radial port ~~(17)~~ in the valve stem ~~(14)~~, characterised in that the valve stem ~~(14)~~ at the end opposite the outlet end ~~(16)~~ defines a fluidic vortex chamber ~~(22)~~ having at least one generally tangential inlet ~~(28)~~ and at least one non-tangential peripheral inlet ~~(26)~~ and having an axial outlet ~~(24)~~ communicating with the bore ~~(15)~~, and the sleeve ~~(18)~~ defines at least one port ~~(32)~~ near the closed end of the sleeve.

2. (Currently amended) A valve assembly as claimed in claim 1 in which there are a plurality of non-tangential peripheral inlets ~~(26)~~ that communicate with the end face of the valve stem ~~(14)~~.

3. (Currently amended) A valve assembly as claimed in claim 2 wherein the non-tangential peripheral inlets ~~(26)~~ extend parallel to the longitudinal axis of the valve stem ~~(14)~~.

4. (Currently amended) A valve assembly as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ also defining a plurality of tangential inlets ~~(28)~~.

5. (Currently amended) A valve assembly as claimed in claim 4 wherein the tangential inlets ~~(28)~~ are linked by a groove ~~(30)~~.

6. (Currently amended) A valve assembly as claimed in claim 5 wherein the groove ~~(30)~~ is peripheral groove around the outside of the valve stem ~~(14)~~.

7. (New) A valve assembly as claimed in claim 2 also defining a plurality of tangential inlets.